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ABSTRACT

Two studies examined the hypothesis that sexually coercive behavior is part of a larger constellation of non-sexual deviant behaviors. The first study considered the relationship between various antisocial intentions and self-reported levels of sexual aggression. As a part of a larger study, college men (N=108) responded to the Sexual Experiences Survey, an extended Likelihood of Behaviors Schedule, items from the Sexual Motivation Survey, and attitudinal scales. Analysis strongly supported the hypothesis that sexually aggressive behavior is part of a general pattern of antisocial behaviors. In the second study, as a part of a larger project, men (N=210) responded to the Sexual Experience Survey, as well as items assessing alcohol and drug use, attitudes towards casual sex, number of sexual partners, moral self-concept, and religiosity. The results revealed significant positive correlations between alcohol and drug use, the number of different sexual partners, and a positive attitude toward casual sex. A negative correlation was found between alcohol and drug use, religiosity, and a moral self-concept. Findings supported the hypothesis that sexual aggression is part of a larger constellation of antisocial behaviors. Future research on sexually assaultive men would benefit from the inclusion of antisocial behaviors and should recognize sexual aggression as a part of a larger constellation of deviant and criminal behaviors. (ABL)

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Anti-social Behavioral Correlates of Self-reported Sexual Aggression

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Anti-Social Behavioral Correlates of Self-reported Sexual Aggression

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This paper considers the hypothesis that sexually coercive behavior is part of a larger constellation of non-sexual deviant behaviors. The rationale for this hypothesis is twofold. First, there are theoretical arguments supporting the hypothesis, and second, previous research provides empirical support.

Theoretical Rationale. Psychopathy, an impulse-related disorder associated with callousness toward others and superficial relationships (Hare & Jutai, 1983), is found to be related to anti-social disorders (Monroe, 1970). Specific antisocial behaviors include physical assault, sexual assault, impulsive sexual behavior, motor vehicle offenses, and pathological intoxication with associated violence (Monroe, 1970). Prentky and Knight (1986) reported that among incarcertated rapists, 30.2% were diagnosed antisocial (on DSM-III Axis II), and all showed engagement in various types of antisocial behaviors as juveniles and as adults. Though the relationship between incarcerated rapists and "hidden" rapists is not clear, the difference may be a matter of degree (Lisak & Roth, 1988). This suggests the importance of assessing

antisocial tendencies in "hidden" rapists, those whose rapes are unreported.

Empirical Evidence. General anti-social tendencies of college students have been linked to sexually aggressive behaviors. Koss and Dinero (1987) found that significant predictors of self-reported sexual aggression included drinking habits, use of pornographic magazines, participation in sexually oriented discussions of women, casual sexual values, number of sexual partners, sexual satisfaction, and violence as a conflict management tactic in heterosexual conflicts. Hostility toward women, acceptance of interpersonal violence, and early sexual experiences also predicted sexual assault. Koss and Dinero suggested that sexually aggressive men may have decreased sensitivity to a victim's suffering, and have highly sexualized views of women. Similarly, Malamuth (1986) reported that psychopathic tendencies, as measured by the psychoticism subscale of the Eysenck Personality, significantly predicts physical and sexual aggression in college men. Malamuth, Haber and Feshbach (1980) found that 51% of the college males surveyed indicated some likelihood of participating in a rape if they were assured they would not get caught. Based on the attitudinal and sexual arousal patterns manifested by these men Malamuth and his colleagues concluded that the "generally callous attitude about rape...is strikingly similar to the attitudes of many convicted rapists."

Present Studies. The present paper reports the findings of two separates studies of the relationship between non-sexual deviance and sexual aggression in college men. The first study considered the relationship between various anti-social intentions and self-reported levels of sexual aggression. The second study examined the relationship between alcohol and drug use and self-reported levels of sexual aggression. In both studies a number of attitudinal and motivational variables were included to assist in interpretation of results.

Study 1. As part of a larger project 108 college men responded to the Koss and Oros (1982) Sexual Experiences Survey, an extended Likelihood of Behaviors Schedule, which was modelled after Malamuth, et al.(1980), items from Nelson's (1979) Sexual Motivation Survey, and items from Burt's (1980) attitudinal scales. The specific items assessing sexual motivation and attitudes were selected based on factor analyses conducted on data from an independent sample of respondents. The items were those which loaded highly on six orthogonal factors (White & Farmer, 1988). Three sexual motivation factors were found: Hedonism and novelty, Conformity and recognition, and Love. The analysis also revealed three attitudinal factors: Adversarial attitudes toward male-female relationships, General sex role attitudes, and Self-satisfaction.

The respondents were placed into one of three sexual aggression categories based on their responses to the Koss and Oros Sexual Experience Survey. These categories were Consensual

Sex Only (57.4%), Verbal Coercion (31.5%) (i.e., obtained sexual intercourse by means of verbal coercion), and Forced Sex (8.3%) (included attempted and completed intercourse by means of threats of and/or use of physical force). For each respondent means were calculated for each motivational and attitudinal factor, and for each factor of the Likelihood of Behaviors Schedule. A principle components factor analysis on the Likelihood of Behaviors Schedule resulted in four meaningful and reliable factors. The first factor, Major Crime (Cronbach's a=.749) consisted of five items (steal an item of a value greater than $100, murder a person, rob a bank, participate in a terrorist activity, kidnap my own child in a custody dispute). The second factor Lesser Crimes (a=.682) included four items (steal an item of a value less than $100, leave the scene of an automobile accident in which you were at fault, steal a library book, drive under the influence of alcohol). The third factor Sexual Behavior (a=.664) included three items (force a woman into sexual acts, rape a woman, have an extramarital affair). The final factor School-related Offenses (a=.824) included two items (plagerize a term paper, cheat on an exam).

A Multivariate Analysis of Variance on the four likelihood of behaviors scores with level of self-reported aggression as the independent variable revealed a significant sexual aggression effect, $F(8, 200)=3.38$, $p< .001$. Separate univariate analyses of variance on each of the factors revealed a consistent sexual aggression effect. For all four factors, the forced sex group

had significantly higher likelihood means than the consensual sex only group. The forced sex group's likelihood scores were also higher than the verbal coercion group for the major crimes factor and sexual behavior factor. Finally, the verbal coercion group had significantly greater likelihood scores than the consensual sex only group for the lesser crimes factor.

A comparison of the three sexual aggression groups on two specific items, likelihood to rape and likelihood to force a woman into sexual acts, revealed 1) that the likelihood to force means were significantly greater than likelihood to rape means, and, 2) that the forced sex group's means for both items were significantly greater than the other two sexual aggression categories. Furthermore, whereas only 29% of the consensual sex only group indicated any likelihood of forcing a woman into sexual acts, 50% of the verbal coercion group and 60% of the forced sex group indicated some likelihood. Similarly, for the likelihood to rape item, whereas only 15% of the consensual sex group indicated some likelihhood of rape, 35% of the verbal coercion group and 60% of the forced sex group so indicated.

Taken together, these data strongly support the hypothesis that sexually aggressive behavior is part of a general pattern of antisocial behaviors. The pattern of correlations between the likelihood subscale scores, attitudes and sexual motivation lend further support to this hypothesis. All four likelihood scores correlated positively and significantly ($p < .01$) with the measures of hedonism and novelty, conformity and recognition, and

adversarial attitudes toward male-female relationships. This overall pattern suggests a narcissistic tendency to seek gratification for one's own pleasure, a tendency towards sensation-seeking, an externalized orientation that guides sexual behavior, and a generally hostile attitude toward relationships, all of which are characteristics of the antisocial personality.

Analyses of likelihood data are limited to the respondents' reported willingness to engage in antisocial or criminal behavior, not their actual participation in such deviance. While it is clear that such likelihood is linked to self-reported sexual aggression, these findings do not show that sexually aggressive men have actually engaged in antisocial behaviors significantly more than have non-sexually aggressive men. Therefore, the second study considered the link between sexually aggressive behavior, other sexually-related behaviors, and alcohol and drug use. Religious involvement and moral self-concept were included in the analyses and were expected to be negatively related to the indices of antisocial tendencies.

Study 2. As part of a larger project 210 men responded the Koss and Oros (1982) Sexual Experience Survey, as well as items assessing alcohol and drug use, attitudes towards casual sex, number of different sexual partners, moral self-concept, and religiousity. Several personality and attitudinal factors were also included.

Respondents were categorized as in study one, with 60.9% in the consensual sex only group, 31.4% in the verbal coercion

group, and 7.6% in the forced sex group. Chi-square analyses revealed significant differences in use of alcohol, use of marihuana, and other drugs. In each case the proportion of men in the forced sex group who drank often and used drugs was greater than the proportion of men in the consensual sex only group. In the forced sex group, 50% reported drinking once or more per week, compared to 31% in the consensual sex only group and 32% in the verbal coercion group. Conversely, 24% of the consensual sex only group compared to 7% of the forced sex group, and 10% of the verbal coercion group, reported never drinking. A similar pattern was observed for drug use. These findings provide support for the hypothesis that sexual aggression is part of a larger constellation of antisocial behaviors. This conclusion is further supported by the finding of significant positive correlations between alcohol and drug use, and number of different sexual partners, positive attitude toward casual sex, and a negative correlation with religiousity and a moral self-concept.

Our findings, along of those of previous researchers, contribute to a profile of nonincarcerated sexually aggressive men as men who generally disregard society's rules of social conduct. There is strong evidence of high levels of sexual activity, greater than average use of alcohol and drugs, and a self-reported likelihood of committing various antisocial and criminal acts in the future. Though these men's behaviors may not be extreme or frequent enough to warrant a DSM-III Axis II

diagnosis of antisocial, the evidence indicates psychopathic tendencies. Future research on sexually assaultive men would benefit from the inclusion of measures of antisocial behaviors, and should recognize that sexual aggression is a part of a larger constellation of deviant and criminal behaviors.

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